

THE SPACE PLACE: AN INTEGRATED AND LEVERAGED APPROACH TO NASA EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH.

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ABSTRACT

Learning about space science and technology is fun. This assumption is the first principle of The Space Place, a coordinated NASA educational outreach program that uses the internet and print media, as well as partnerships with professional educator associations, national youth organizations, and community organizations to deliver rich and innovative messages about space science and technology. The Space Place was begun in 1998 as a child-oriented web site (<http://spaceplace.jpl.nasa.gov>) to present ideas for simple "make and do" activities and fun facts related to the technology validation space missions of NASA's New Millennium Program. The outreach effort has now grown to include many other space and Earth science missions. It has also greatly broadened its reach. For example, space-mission-related activity articles are published monthly in *The Technology Teacher*, the educator's journal of the International Technology Education Association, as well as several large city newspapers. These articles also invite readers to The Space Place web site.

In addition, The Space Place outreach team has formed partnerships with over 150 museums, libraries, and planetariums many of which are in small communities. These partners agree to feature a unique Space Place display, for which we provide distinctive borders, posters, mission insignias, and other information. In addition, the partners supplement the display with local news, children's art and writing, models, or products created during the four annual "Club Space Place" structured activity events for which we provide the idea and the handouts. The Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the YWCA, and the CAP also participate as Club Space Place partners,

distributing the activity guides to their thousands of member chapters. We have also created the first Space Place Collectible Card Game, representing the missions of the New Millennium Program. The card decks are given in limited quantities to Space Place partners for use in Club Space Place award programs. Planning for a second (different) deck is underway.

Activities, contests, and amazing facts on the web site, as well as activities depicted in the ITEA articles and Club Space Place event guides all relate to and explain in simple terms some scientific or technological aspect of a space mission.

By forming partnerships with existing organizations, The Space Place educational outreach program has a potential reach of more than 40 million per year. It provides cross-disciplinary, innovative content to enrich more formal science and technology curriculum, and creates for NASA a youth-oriented, personalized reach that extends into the home and local community.

This poster session will more fully describe this NASA integrated, multi-mission, multi-disciplinary educational outreach program.

BIOGRAPHY

Nancy Leon serves as the lead for the Space Place outreach program. Diane Fisher is the webmaster and science writer for the Space Place. They are members of the Mission Execution and Automation section of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.